

FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

TO one familiar with the teaching of the word of God, nothing could be plainer than the fact that there is present, absolute and eternal forgiveness of sins *assured* to everyone who believes on the Lord Jesus Christ. It is one of the fundamental truths of the gospel; and the *knowledge* of forgiveness, instead of being an attainment of advanced christians, reached after many and varied experiences of christian life, and high attainments in christian holiness, lies at the threshold of christianity. Forgiveness of sins, associated with the communication of divine life, is the first act of grace on the part of God toward a sinner who believes the gospel. And when God bestows this favor, He does not withhold the *knowledge* of it, but *assures* it to the one who simply believes what He says. And if there are believers who are *not* sure, it is because they have sought evidences within themselves, in their own experience, or because they have been taught that it was humility to doubt, instead of simply believing God. How terrible to think that we are not simply to believe God, as if He could deceive us, or tell us lies! Alas! how many have, unwittingly, been making God a liar, by not taking Him at His word, without question, or by waiting, to make His word true by their own experience, a thing they can never do! (I John